

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mrs. Mel Marlana Titus on 8/23/2010.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the claim:

In the claim 12, line 12, after the word "exposed", delete a language --freely mobile--

In the claim 12, line 12, after the word "exposed", add a language – free--.

2. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: None of the prior art of the record discloses, teaches, and/or suggests the method comprising: the step of applying to the outside of the structure a biocide-free antifouling agent comprising fine basalt fibers or filaments, or comprising a combination of fine basalt fibers or filaments and E glass fibers, wherein the fine basalt fibers or filaments or E-glass fibers have a SiO₂ rate of more than 50% by weight, wherein the antifouling agent is applied in the form of a textile fabric selected from the group consisting of interlaid scrim, woven fabric, knitted fabrics or braiding, a fabric designed by the multi-axial technique, and a fleece, wherein the exterior surface of the textile

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fabric to be in contact with the seawater or industrial water is formed predominantly by exposed free fine basalt fibers or filaments.

The closest prior art (CN 1421351; Yan et al.) discloses a method of making hull of fishing boat and yacht with basalt fiber reinforced material. The material used includes twist-less basalt rove or fabric, unsaturated polyester resin or epoxy resin, promoter and other supplementary material.

However, Yan et al. fail to disclose the method wherein the exterior surface of basalt fibers being contact with the seawater or industrial water is formed predominantly by exposed free fine basalt fibers as claimed (Yan et al. disclose the method wherein the basalt fiber is impregnated with the resin).

Conclusion

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JAEYUN LEE whose telephone number is (571)270-5114. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday thru Tuesday 8am to 4pm est..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Richard Crispino can be reached on 571-272-1226. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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/Jeff Aftergut/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1791

/Jaeyun Lee/
8/23/2010